Dear Bread Loaf Community,

On Monday we inaugurated Bread Loaf's 2020 Summer of Writing—with hopes that the work we do across the session will help us grow as teachers, learners, and agents of change.

We start this vital work at a moment when police brutality is threatening Black lives daily and systemic racism in housing, health care, and employment policies is rendering Black and Brown communities especially vulnerable to the global pandemic. As leaders of the School, we want to express our unequivocal commitment to promoting anti-racist social and educational practices in and beyond our Bread Loaf classrooms. Black lives matter. And we need to act on that reality, not only to heed but also to lead the charge, so powerfully articulated by the Black Lives Matter mission statement: to "work vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension, all people" and "co-create … a culture where each person feels seen, heard, and supported."

The convening of Bread Loaf's Summer of Writing provides us an important opportunity to take up this charge—to expand on what we've done so far to build diversity and inclusivity across the learning experiences we foster at Bread Loaf and beyond. Collectively, we need to identify and address the obstacles that allow systemic racism to persist within our own institution. We need to engage in conversations that will bring us together, and bring us out within our home communities, as leaders and allies in the fight for social justice. And we need to develop a plan for future action so we can hold ourselves accountable for ensuring that, across its next century, Bread Loaf not only models but inspires an unyielding commitment to educational and social equity and reform.

We have a lot of work to do. But we are all in this together. And we invite you to engage in these efforts—as you pursue writing and mentoring in your tutorials; participate in workshops, talks, and discussion groups; collaborate on socially transformative pedagogies with teachers and youth in the Bread Loaf Teacher Network (BLTN) and BLTN Next Generation Youth Leadership Network; or connect with Bread Loaf in other meaningful ways. Across the summer, we will create opportunities for you to talk with each other and with us and map out strategies for change. Please stay tuned.

Let us say it again (and again and again): Black lives matter. And now, let us act powerfully, ceaselessly on those words and turn Bread Loaf—and the world—into the places we want and need them to be.

Emily Bartels, Dean

Lyndon Dominique, Associate Director

Beverly Moss, Director of BLTN